

February 3, 2011

**East End Drug Task Force detectives arrest 23 involved in  
eastern Suffolk cocaine ring**

*Local Bloods street gang members involved*

An East End Drug Task Force investigation into cocaine trafficking from New York City to eastern Suffolk County has resulted in 23 arrests thus far, Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota said today.

Bloods gang members Carnell Walker, 25, of Flanders and John Gayles, 25, of Riverhead “cooked, packaged and distributed for sale an estimated \$20,000 worth of crack cocaine every week,” DA Spota said, noting that both suspects were under parole supervision for past drug convictions.

Walker, also known as “Smell”, has two felony convictions; John Gayles, also known as “Guns”, has 11 felony convictions, the most recent in 2008.

Arraigned before County Judge Martin Efman in Riverhead today, Walker pleaded not guilty to conspiracy, criminal sale and criminal possession felony charges. Bail for Walker was set at \$250,000 cash. Gayles pleaded not guilty to conspiracy, criminal possession of a weapon, criminal use of drug paraphernalia and criminal possession of a forged instrument charges and is being held in lieu of \$250,000 cash bail.

Two men who, according to evidence gathered during the investigation, supplied cocaine to Walker and Gayles were also arraigned today. James White, aka “Dog”, 39, of Riverhead is incarcerated in the county jail in lieu of \$200,000 cash bail after pleading not guilty to conspiracy and attempted criminal sale and attempted criminal possession of a controlled substance charges. Codefendant Mack Butler, aka “Kobe”, 36, of Patchogue pleaded not guilty at his arraignment to conspiracy, weapons possession and other charges. Butler is incarcerated in lieu of \$250,000 cash bail.

District Attorney Spota said White was convicted in 1993 of drug trafficking and released in 2001 from prison. Butler “is a convicted prior violent felony offender whose record shows a conviction for gun possession and an assault conviction for his involvement in a shooting in Amityville some years ago,” Spota said.

An estimated \$18,000 dollars worth of cocaine and \$12,500 in cash was seized during the execution of ten search warrants during the investigation. Also recovered were three weapons; a .357 revolver that evidence indicates was used in a shooting in Shirley, a .9 mm handgun stolen in Florida that ballistics evidence indicates was used in two shootings in Riverhead and a .45 caliber handgun traced by detectives to Georgia.

During the course of the investigation EEDTF detectives recovered thousands of dollars of counterfeit \$20 bills, photo-quality printers and other supplies believed to have been used to create counterfeit \$20 bills from defendant Dewayne Butler's residence on Offaly Street in Amityville.

"The counterfeit \$20 bills often went from Butler to Carnell Walker in Riverhead", District Attorney Spota said. "The defendants would test the quality of the fake bills by purchasing gas and cigarettes at local gas stations and, if clerks accepted the bills, they would sell the bogus currency to others, charging \$100 for \$1,000 in fake bills." Spota said evidence and information regarding the counterfeit operation has been referred to federal law enforcement.

Testing by the Suffolk County Crime Lab of over 26 ounces of a powdery substance shrink-wrapped in blue plastic that was seized last month from defendants Mack Butler and Kyle Harris as they returned by car from Brooklyn to Suffolk County found the package contained baking soda and sheet rock. Because the pair intended to purchase cocaine, they are charged with attempted criminal possession of a controlled substance first degree and attempted criminal possession of a controlled substance third degree with intent to sell.

Member agencies of the district attorney's East End Drug Task Force began the cocaine trafficking investigation last August.

The East End Drug Task Force is a multi-jurisdictional drug enforcement unit funded by the office of Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota. The task force includes detectives, police officers, and law enforcement personnel from the New York State Police, New York State Parole the Suffolk County Police Department, District Attorney Detective-Investigators, Riverhead Police Department, East Hampton Town Police Department, East Hampton Village Police Department, Shelter Island Police Department, Southold Police Department, the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office, and the Suffolk County Department of Probation.



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Every defendant is presumed innocent, unless and until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt following a trial at which the defendant has all of the trial rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and federal law.